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Better Farming and the Work of the Department of Agriculture

upy a place of importance never heretofore enjoyed, Virginia is naturally a great agricultural State and must remain so. Her climate and markets

make this an easy prediction. Our farmers are more hopeful, more good prices for their products, and de-ing better farming. As evidence of this there was in cultivation in 1900, 4,040. means that the farmer prepared land more carefully, cultivated

more thoroughly and gathered his crops in better condition. Many of our farmers are beginning o realize and appreciate that agriculture is a science and that slipshed methods have no more place in farm-ing than in commercial enterprises. Our farmers are doing more thinking. more reading, and consequently adopting better methods. They are making many requests for Some of our tillers of the bulletins. soll are beginning to buy their fer-tilizer by the formula and are not longer misled by the catchy brand-name, which means nothing. The day has passed when just any one can be a successful farmer.

It is a well known fact that the

to make a study of the soil and the employment of such methods as will aprove and maintain the fertility of the soil, and the larger use of grass crops. Then, it naturally follows that more stock must be kept, and in doing this there is returned to the soil the

Hog Cholera.
The last Legislature passed a law authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to secure hog cholera serum and furnish it to the farmers at cost. A bulletin has been issued giving full directions for administering the scrum and how to diagnose the disease. The protection that this serum gives will put new life into the hog-raising industry. Virginia does not raise enough hogs to supply the home demand, yet hogs to supply the home demand, yet

hogs to supply the home demand, yet no State can produce pork or bacon more cheaply than Virginia.

Growing Alfalfa in Virginia.

Commissioner Koiner is pushing alfalfa. In addition to having printed the valuable publication on the subject he has had lectures delivered in every part of the State, giving full information on growing this valuable plant. tion on growing this valuable plant.
Below is a summary found on the
last page of the Alfalfa Bulletin: First—Alfalfa requires good land.
First—Alfalfa requires good land.
Second—Land must be well drained.
Third—Supply a lack of humus and
organic matter by plowing under a organic matter by plowing under a crop of cowpeas or crimson clover.

Fourth—Use lime liberally. Alfalfs is a lime plant and without its use a failure. Ground limestone gives the best results. Apply one ton a year for four or five years or five tons the first year or one ton of burnt lime every two or three years.

Fifth—Use liberally barnyard ma-

Fifth-Use liberally barnyard ma-nure or commercial fertilizer. Secure good results from the use of 800 to ,000 pounds of 14 per cent, to 16 per cent, acid phosphate per acre.
Sixth—Eradication of weeds, which are the greatest enemies of this plant.
This is best accomplished by breaking up the land some time before seeding and running a spring tooth barrow over lightly every weekly seeding and running a spring tooth harrow over lightly every week or ten days, destroying the weeds as fast as they germinate and appear. Or, better still, precede by a crop of cowpeas; turn under or mow off the peas and sow crimson clover in the stubble and turn the clover under the follow-

surface cultivate until seeding time, surface cultivate until seeding time. This requires a year's preparation, but it will pay.

Seventh—Use twenty to thirty pounds of seed to pounds of seed to the acre when there is sufficient moisture in the land. In is sufficient moisture in the land. In castern half of State seed from August 15 to September 10; in western half of State August 15 to September 10; in western fourth. All of the counties have not yet chipped in, and so the demonstra-

Eighth—Inoculate the land with soil from an alfalfa field.
See to see pounds to the acre.
Ninth—Alfalfa is semewhat easier to cure than clover. Better be a little

Agricultural Pure Seed Law.
The Legislature did another good thing for the benefit of the farmers in the passage of the seed law, having for its object the improvement of the quality of our agricultural seed and the elimination of impurities and the elimination of impurities and weed seeds. Under this law the Commissioner of Agriculture has employed a seed analyst and fitted up suitable apparatus for testing samples of farm seeds. The law permits any farmers,

clum, and if unburnt the carbonate of lime. This law protects the farmer from buying a low grade and paying the price of a high grade article. packages of lime must bear a label stating the guarantee, and if shipped in bulk the bill of lading must give

the guarantee. Great Advance in Fruit Growing. The Commissioner of Agriculture, in B. Oglesby, of Nansemond; is reports for the last ten years, has enbury, of Louisa; J. T. mercial orchards. The yields of apples Wampler, of Rockingham, B. A. in many orchards this year amounted to \$5,000, and some crops sold as high as \$20,000 and \$25,000. ored apple. The Legislature appropriated \$2,500 for the advancement of horticulture, which sum is used by the State Horticultural Society. This so-

clety is doing a valuable work. Department of Agriculture also

particularly amounts of cabbage, a successful farmer.

It is a well known fact that the best business men make the best farmers. To succeed as a farmer means to make a study of the soil and the port of the Norfelk Truck and Experiment Station.

Commissioner of Agriculture in are being delivered almost daily on to result in a great deal of good.

F. S. W. the Yield of Corn Without Additional Expense," "Potatoes as a Money Crop." "Fruit Growing," "Better Methods o Tobacco Culture" and "Stock Breeding." The attendance and interest in these meetings are also being held in counties where railway accommodations cannot be had.

Experiment Stations.

In addition to the trucking experiment station at Norfolk, the Board of Agriculture has recently established an experiment station in Augusta county, in the centre of the Valley, where experiments are laborated as a second county. where experiments are being made that will be helpful to the agricultural con-ditions of that section of the State.

back to the beginning. I believe I have worth repetition: The good work was started in Virginia nearly four years started in Virginia nearly four years ago, being financed by the Educational Board of New York, an organization that has done a great deal for various kinds of educational development in the South. The good work along agricultural lines started by this board progressed so favorably and produced such good results that all the people of Virginia including that select few of Virginia, including that select few who were elected to the Legislature and other good paying offices, just had to sit up awhile and take notice.

to sit up awhile and take notice.

The Commonwealth Comes In.

The State now pays something to keep the work going. The sources of revenue are now somewhat varied, the State paying one-fourth of the expense, the counties, or such of them as elect through their boards of supervisors, so to say, paying one-half, and the New York Educational Record tion work does not yet extend to ever county in the State. Sooner or late all of the counties will come in. Al ought to be in now, but unfortunately there are some counties in Virginia that have the misfortune to have Boards of Supervisors who are a little behind-the times-just a little behind-no more than fifty years to 200 years, but even fifty years behind is a right good stretch in the rear in this twentieth century development time. These anclents can't live always, and so there may be a better time ahead.

Coming by Degrees.

According to Mr. Sandy, only thirty-five counties out of the 100 that are colored on the map of Virginia, have taken hold of this demonstration work, taken hold of it by making through apparatus for testing samples seeds. The law permits any farmers, who are not dealers in seed, to send to the Commissioner of Agriculture, free of cost, samples of seed that he has purchased, or he may wish to have examined with a view of purchasing, or the may have thirty-five counties will be represented in the meeting. However, it is very certain that if any representatives should show up from any of the other should show up from any ot der the influence of the twentieth cen-The General Assembly also passed be admitted with the hope that they are requiring all limes offered for might reach the mourners' bench, and Largest and Strongest Bank in the City.

spective neighborhoods. And such re vivals are very much needed The whole lot of neighborhoods. The Hustling Workers.
The following is the official list of the agents now at work in Virginia

Jr., of Albemarle; George Adams, Cumberland, J. M. Gish, of Roanoke, H. M. Hoge, of Loudoun; J. C. Hunter, of Fairfax, H. Walker. containing 127 acres sold its crop for Lifsey, of Greenesville: J. G. Bruce, \$35,000. Virginia grows the best flav. Culpeper: M. H. West, of Sussex: Mecklenburg, and R. M. Marchamp, o in King William, Westmoreland, Pitt sylvania, Norfolk and Augusta, and Department of Agriculture also appropriates \$1,000 annually to this so-

> applied to farming in the same wa ing, retailing, manufacturing or an I guess this March meeting of

farmers as choose to attend is going

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